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6. — *Recollections and Private Memoirs of Washington.* By his adopted Son, GEORGE WASHINGTON PARKE CUSTIS, with a Memoir of the Author, by his Daughter; and Illustrative and Explanatory Notes, by BENSON J. LOSSING. With Illustrations. New York: Derby and Jackson. 1860. 8vo. pp. 644.

THE larger part of this volume is composed of a series of articles contributed to different newspapers by Washington's adopted son, between 1826 and the close of his life, and now brought together in a collected form for the first time. They embody many interesting details respecting Washington's domestic life, and are founded partly on Mr. Custis's own recollections, and partly on information gathered by him from trustworthy sources. From the manner in which they were prepared, and from the irregularity in their publication, it is not surprising that they should be marked by great inequalities of style, and that there should be many repetitions in them. Still everything relating to Washington has an historical interest, and these papers must be counted among the original sources of information, — with some abatement, however, on account of the lapse of time between the occurrences narrated and the period when Mr. Custis wrote. Besides his reminiscences of Washington, he has given brief and gossiping sketches of Hamilton, General Morgan, Robert Morris, Henry Lee, and of several others who acted a conspicuous part in the war of the Revolution, as well as of Washington's mother and wife. Like the other papers, these are of very unequal merit.

Prefixed to the Recollections are an interesting Memoir of Mr. Custis, by his daughter, and some suggestive extracts from an unpublished correspondence of Washington and young Custis, while the latter was at college. The Appendix contains several interesting extracts from the correspondence of Washington and John Parke Custis, Mrs. Washington's son, General Henry Lee's eulogy on Washington, and some other papers; and the volume has also a copious Index, and is enriched by several portraits. The illustrative notes furnished by Mr. Lossing comprise much interesting matter, and would have added largely to the value of the book, if greater care had been taken in their preparation. But they do not exhibit that degree of accuracy which we have a right to demand in an historical work. In some instances contradictory statements appear in different notes; in other instances the same mistake occurs in two or more notes; and occasionally, where a statement is not incorrect, it is so carelessly worded as to be likely to mislead or to embarrass most readers.